

Meyer Capital Group

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Brochure
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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Meyer Capital Group. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (856) 985-8400 or tmeyer@meyercg.com. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

Additional information about Meyer Capital Group also is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

References herein to Meyer Capital Group as a “registered investment adviser” or any reference to being “registered” does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Item 2 Material Changes

This section describes the material changes to this Form ADV Part 2A, Brochure since Meyer Capital Group's (hereinafter referred to as "Meyer Capital Group" or "Registrant") last Annual Amendment filing on March 30, 2021.

There have been no material changes made to this Part 2A Brochure.

Meyer Capital Group's Chief Compliance Officer, Thomas C. Meyer, remains available to address any questions regarding this Part 2A, including such disclosure additions and enhancements.

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Item 4 Advisory Business

- A. Financial Architects Inc., doing business as Meyer Capital Group (the “Registrant”), is a corporation formed on January 13, 1988 in the state of New Jersey. The Registrant became registered as an Investment Adviser Firm in May 1989. The Registrant is principally owned by Thomas C. Meyer. Mr. Meyer is the Registrant’s President.
- B. As discussed below, the Registrant offers to its clients (individuals, business entities, trusts, pension and profit sharing plans and charitable organizations, etc.) investment advisory services, pension consulting services and, to the extent specifically requested by a client, financial planning and related consulting services.

INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES

The Registrant provides discretionary and/or non-discretionary investment advisory services on a *fee-only* basis. The Registrant’s annual investment advisory fee is based upon a percentage (%) of the market value of the assets placed under the Registrant’s management, generally between 0.75% and 1.00%.

Prior to engaging the Registrant to provide investment advisory services, clients are required to enter into an *Investment Advisory Agreement* with the Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions of the engagement.

Registrant provides investment advisory services specific to the needs of each client. Prior to providing investment advisory services, an investment adviser representative will ascertain each client’s investment objectives. Thereafter, the Registrant will allocate or recommend that the client allocate investment assets consistent with their designated investment objectives.

PENSION CONSULTING

Registrant acts as a pension consultant for various pension plans. Registrant first determines the investment objectives and requirements that are appropriate for each plan and then recommends various prospective investment alternatives for the plan’s review and consideration including, but not limited to, mutual funds, group annuity contracts, and/or separate account managers/programs (for approval by each plan sponsor) that best fulfill the investment objectives within each investment category. The investment management fee charged by separate account managers/programs is separate from, and in addition to, Registrant’s advisory fee as set forth in the fee schedule at Item 5 below.

Prior to engaging the Registrant, the client will generally be required to enter into an *Investment Consulting Agreement* with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions of the engagement, describing the scope of the services to be provided, the fee arrangement, and the portion of the fee that is due from the client prior to Registrant commencing services. The Registrant’s fee will be based on a percentage (%) of the assets within the plan.

FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES (STAND-ALONE)

The Registrant may be engaged to provide financial planning and/or consulting services (including investment and non-investment related matters, including estate planning, insurance planning, etc.) on a stand-alone separate fee basis. Registrant’s planning and

consulting fees are negotiable, but generally range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 on a fixed fee basis, and from \$150 to \$200 on an hourly rate basis, depending upon the level and scope of the service(s) required and the professional(s) rendering the service(s).

Prior to engaging the Registrant to provide planning or consulting services, clients are generally required to enter into a *Financial Planning Agreement* with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions of the engagement (including termination), describing the scope of the services to be provided, and the portion of the fee that is due from the client prior to Registrant commencing services.

If requested by the client, Registrant may recommend the services of other professionals for implementation purposes. The client is under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. The client retains absolute discretion over all such implementation decisions and is free to accept or reject any recommendation from the Registrant.

If the client engages any recommended professional, and a dispute arises thereafter relative to such engagement, the client agrees to seek recourse exclusively from and against the engaged professional. At all times, the engaged licensed professional(s) (i.e. attorney, accountant, insurance agent, etc.), and not the Registrant, shall be responsible for the quality and competency of the services provided.

It remains the client's responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant if there is ever any change in their financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing, evaluating or revising Registrant's previous recommendations and/or services.

MEYER AUTOMATED PORTFOLIO STRATEGY

Clients may choose to engage Registrant to provide investment management services utilizing the Institutional Intelligent Portfolios™ Program, relative to investment accounts with market values of at least \$5,000 under the Meyer Automated Portfolio Strategy ("MAPS"). Institutional Intelligent Portfolios™, is an automated, online investment management platform for use by independent investment advisors offered by software provider Schwab Performance Technologies ("SPT"). Through MAPS, the Registrant offers clients a range of investment strategies we have constructed and manage. The client's portfolio is held in a brokerage account opened by the client at SPT's affiliate, Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("CS&Co"). The Registrant is independent of and not owned by, affiliated with, or sponsored or supervised by SPT, CS&Co or their affiliates (together, "Schwab").

The Registrant, and not Schwab, is the client's investment advisor and primary point of contact with respect to MAPS. The Registrant is solely responsible, and Schwab is not responsible, for determining the appropriateness of MAPS for the client, choosing a suitable investment strategy and portfolio for the client's investment needs and goals, and managing that portfolio on an ongoing basis.

The Registrant has contracted with SPT to provide us with the technology platform and related trading and account management services for MAPS. This platform enables us to make MAPS available to clients online and includes a system that automates certain key parts of our investment process (the "System"). The System includes an online questionnaire that helps us determine the client's investment objectives and risk tolerance

and select an appropriate investment strategy and portfolio. Clients should note that the Registrant will recommend a portfolio via the System in response to the client's answers to the online questionnaire. The client may then indicate an interest in a portfolio that is one level less or more conservative or aggressive than the recommended portfolio, but the Registrant then makes the final decision and selects a portfolio based on all the information Registrant has about the client. The System also includes an automated investment engine through which the Registrant manages the client's portfolio on an ongoing basis through automatic rebalancing and tax-loss harvesting (if the client is eligible and elects).

The Registrant does not receive a portion of a wrap fee for our services to clients through MAPS. Clients do not pay fees to SPT in connection with MAPS, but the Registrant charges clients a fee for our services as described below under Item 5. Registrant's fees are not set or supervised by Schwab. Clients do not pay brokerage commissions or any other fees to CS&Co as part of MAPS. Schwab does receive other revenues in connection with MAPS, which are described in the "Compensation to Schwab Under MAPS" section below.

The Registrant does not pay SPT fees for the Platform so long as it maintain \$100 million in client assets in accounts at CS&Co that are not enrolled in MAPS. If the Registrant does not meet this condition, then it must pay SPT an annual licensing fee of 0.10% of the value of its clients' assets in MAPS. This arrangement presents a conflict of interest, as it provides an incentive for the Registrant to recommend that clients maintain their accounts at CS&Co. Notwithstanding, Registrant may generally recommend to its clients that they maintain investment management accounts at CS&Co. based on the considerations discussed in Item 12 below, which mitigates but does not eliminate this conflict of interest.

Clients enrolled in MAPS are limited in the universe of investment options available to them. For example, the investment options available are limited to ETFs, whereas Registrant recommends various other types of securities in its other services. MAPS is designed to provide guidance and professional assistance to individuals who are beginning the process of accumulating wealth. Clients will have access to their accounts and a financial interface online but will also have the opportunity to confer with the Registrant with respect to their account.

Rebalancing

The System will rebalance a client's account periodically by generating instructions to CS&Co. to buy and sell shares of funds and depositing or withdrawing funds through the "Sweep Program", considering the asset allocation for the client's investment strategy. Rebalancing trade instructions can be generated by the System when (i) the percentage allocation of an asset class varies by a set parameter established by the Registrant, (ii) Registrant decides to change asset allocation percentages for an investment strategy or (iii) Registrant decides to change a client's investment strategy, which could occur, for example, when a client makes changes to their investment profile or imposes or modifies restrictions on the management of their account.

Sweep Program

Each investment strategy involves a cash allocation ("Cash Allocation") that will be held in a sweep program at Charles Schwab Bank (the "Sweep Program"). The Cash Allocation will be a minimum of 4% of an account's value to be held in cash, and may be

higher, depending on the investment strategy chosen for a client. The Cash Allocation will be accomplished through enrollment in the Sweep Program, a program sponsored by CS&Co. By enrolling in MAPS, clients consent to having the free credit balances in their brokerage accounts at CS&Co. swept into deposit accounts (“Deposit Accounts”) at Charles Schwab Bank (“Schwab Bank”) through the Sweep Program. Schwab Bank is an FDIC-insured depository institution that is a Schwab affiliate. The Sweep Program is a required feature of MAPS. If the Deposit Account balances exceed the Cash Allocation for a client’s investment strategy, the excess over the rebalancing parameter will be used to purchase securities as part of rebalancing. If clients request cash withdrawals from their accounts, this likely will require the sale of fund positions in their accounts to bring their Cash Allocation in line with the target allocation for their chosen investment strategy. If those clients have taxable accounts, those sales may generate capital gains (or losses) for tax purposes. In accordance with an agreement with CS&Co., Schwab Bank has agreed to pay an interest rate to depositors participating in the Sweep Program that will be determined by reference to an index.

MISCELLANEOUS

Limitations of Financial Planning and Non-Investment Consulting/Implementation Services. As indicated above, to the extent requested by a client, Registrant may provide financial planning and related consulting services. Neither the Registrant nor its investment adviser representatives assist clients with the implementation of any financial plan, unless they have agreed to do so in writing. The Registrant does not monitor a client’s financial plan, and it is the client’s responsibility to revisit the financial plan with the Registrant, if desired.

To the extent requested by a client, Registrant will provide an initial “Needs Assessment” for such services inclusive of its advisory fee as set forth at Item 5 below. In the event that a client desires additional financial planning and/or any other related or unrelated consulting services, the Registrant remains available to provide such services for an additional fee per the terms and conditions of a separate agreement.

We do not serve as an attorney, accountant, or insurance agency, and no portion of our services should be construed as legal or accounting services. Accordingly, we do not prepare estate planning documents, tax returns or sell insurance products. To the extent requested by a client, we may recommend the services of other professionals for certain non-investment implementation purpose (i.e. attorneys, accountants, insurance, etc.). Clients are reminded that they are under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. The client retains absolute discretion over all such implementation decisions and is free to accept or reject any recommendation made by Registrant or its representatives.

If the client engages any unaffiliated recommended professional, and a dispute arises thereafter relative to such engagement, the client agrees to seek recourse exclusively from and against the engaged professional. At all times, the engaged licensed professional(s) (i.e. attorney, accountant, insurance agent, etc.), and not the Registrant, shall be responsible for the quality and competency of the services provided.

Other Investment Advisory Services. Registrant serves as investment adviser to ERISA pension plans. Registrant is compensated for such services by the pension plan’s third party administrator. The Registrant’s compensation is based on a percentage of the asset

based fee that the pension plan pays to the third party administrator. Registrant may receive referrals from Paychex, Inc., other third party administrators, payroll companies, banks or trust companies, for which it does not pay a referral fee.

Non-Discretionary Service Limitations. Clients that determine to engage the Registrant on a non-discretionary investment advisory basis must be willing to accept that the Registrant cannot effect any account transactions without obtaining prior consent to any such transaction(s) from the client. Therefore, in the event of a market correction during which the client is unavailable, the Registrant will be unable to effect any account transactions (as it would for its discretionary clients) without first obtaining the client's consent.

Retirement Rollovers-Potential for Conflict of Interest: A client or prospective client leaving an employer typically has four options regarding an existing retirement plan (and may engage in a combination of these options): (i) leave the money in the former employer's plan, if permitted, (ii) roll over the assets to the new employer's plan, if one is available and rollovers are permitted, (iii) roll over to an Individual Retirement Account ("IRA"), or (iv) cash out the account value (which could, depending upon the client's age, result in adverse tax consequences). If Registrant recommends that a client roll over their retirement plan assets into an account to be managed by Registrant, such a recommendation creates a conflict of interest if Registrant will earn new (or increase its current) compensation as a result of the rollover. If Registrant provides a recommendation as to whether a client should engage in a rollover or not, Registrant is acting as a fiduciary within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and/or the Internal Revenue Code, as applicable, which are laws governing retirement accounts. No client is under any obligation to roll over retirement plan assets to an account managed by Registrant.

Use of Mutual Funds and Exchange Traded Funds. While the Registrant may allocate investment assets to mutual funds and exchange traded funds ("ETFs") that are not available directly to the public, the Registrant may also allocate investment assets to publicly available mutual funds and ETFs that the client could purchase without engaging Registrant as an investment adviser. However, if a client or prospective client determines to purchase publicly available mutual funds or ETFs without engaging Registrant as an investment adviser, the client or prospective client would not receive the benefit of Registrant's initial and ongoing investment advisory services with respect to management of the asset.

Other mutual funds, such as those issued by Dimensional Fund Advisors ("DFA"), are generally only available through selected registered investment advisers. Registrant may allocate client investment assets to DFA mutual funds. Therefore, upon the termination of Registrant's services to a client, restrictions regarding transferability and/or additional purchases of, or reallocation among DFA funds will apply.

Structured Notes. The Registrant may purchase structured notes for client accounts. A structured note is a financial instrument that combines two elements, a debt security and exposure to an underlying asset or assets. It is essentially a note, carrying counterparty risk of the issuer. However, the return on the note is linked to the return of an underlying asset or assets (such as the S&P 500 Index or commodities). It is this latter feature that makes structured products unique, as the payout can be used to provide some degree of principal protection, leveraged returns (but usually with some cap on the maximum

return), and be tailored to a specific market or economic view. In addition, investors may receive long-term capital gains tax treatment if certain underlying conditions are met and the note is held for more than one year. Finally, structured notes may also have liquidity constraints, such that the sale thereof before maturity may be limited.

Unaffiliated Private Investment Funds. Registrant may recommend that certain qualified clients consider an investment in unaffiliated private investment funds. Registrant's role relative to the private investment funds shall be limited to its initial and ongoing due diligence and investment monitoring services. Registrant's clients are under absolutely no obligation to consider or make an investment in a private investment fund(s).

Risk Factors: Private investment funds generally involve various risk factors, including, but not limited to, potential for complete loss of principal, liquidity constraints and lack of transparency, a complete discussion of which is set forth in each fund's offering documents, which will be provided to each client for review and consideration. Unlike liquid investments that a client may own, private investment funds do not provide daily liquidity or pricing. Each prospective client investor will be required to complete a Subscription Agreement, pursuant to which the client shall establish that he/she is qualified for investment in the fund, and acknowledges and accepts the various risk factors that are associated with such an investment.

Valuation: If Registrant bills an investment advisory fee based upon the value of private investment funds or otherwise references private investment funds owned by the client on any supplemental account reports prepared by Registrant, the value for all private investment funds owned by the client will reflect the most recent valuation provided by the fund sponsor. The current value of any private investment fund could be significantly more or less than the original purchase price or the price reflected in any supplemental account report.

Variable Annuity Management. The Registrant allocates client investment assets on a discretionary basis among the investment sub accounts of no load variable annuity products purchased (potentially through Vanguard, Schwab, or Lincoln Financial) by the client. The Registrant includes the variable product assets as part of "assets under management" for the purposes of calculating its annual advisory fee.

Initial Public Offering (IPO) Policy. The Registrant, through its clearing/custodial firm relationships, may have access to IPO shares for certain securities. Therefore, in certain limited circumstances and upon client direction, the Registrant may purchase IPOs for these client accounts. To the extent possible and applicable under the circumstances (when clients, in the aggregate, have requested more IPO shares than can be obtained by the Registrant), Registrant will allocate individual client IPO share purchases among those qualified individual clients expressing a desire to hold a specific IPO on a rotational basis or some other fair and equitable basis. To the extent possible and applicable under the circumstances, the Registrant will use reasonable efforts to allocate available IPO shares on a fair and equitable basis in accordance with the terms and conditions of the aforementioned policy.

Socially Responsible Investing Limitations. Socially Responsible Investing involves the incorporation of Environmental, Social and Governance considerations into the investment due diligence process ("ESG). There are potential limitations associated with

allocating a portion of an investment portfolio in ESG securities (i.e., securities that have a mandate to avoid, when possible, investments in such products as alcohol, tobacco, firearms, oil drilling, gambling, etc.). The number of these securities may be limited when compared to those that do not maintain such a mandate. ESG securities could underperform broad market indices. Investors must accept these limitations, including potential for underperformance. Correspondingly, the number of ESG mutual funds and exchange traded funds are few when compared to those that do not maintain such a mandate. As with any type of investment (including any investment and/or investment strategies recommended and/or undertaken by Registrant), there can be no assurance that investment in ESG securities or funds will be profitable, or prove successful.

Cryptocurrency. For clients who want exposure to cryptocurrencies, including Bitcoin, Registrant, will advise the client to consider a potential investment in corresponding exchange traded securities or private funds that provide cryptocurrency exposure. Crypto is a digital currency that can be used to buy goods and services, but uses an online ledger with strong cryptography (i.e., a method of protecting information and communications through the use of codes) to secure online transactions. Unlike conventional currencies issued by a monetary authority, cryptocurrencies are generally not controlled or regulated and their price is determined by the supply and demand of their market. Because cryptocurrency is currently considered to be a speculative investment, Registrant will not exercise discretionary authority to purchase a cryptocurrency investment for client accounts. Rather, a client must expressly authorize the purchase of the cryptocurrency investment. Registrant does not recommend or advocate the purchase of, or investment in, cryptocurrencies. Registrant considers such an investment to be speculative. Clients who authorize the purchase of a cryptocurrency investment must be prepared for the potential for liquidity constraints, extreme price volatility and complete loss of principal.

Separately Managed Account Programs. The Registrant may allocate (and/or recommend that the client allocate) a portion of a client's investment assets among unaffiliated Separately Managed Account programs in accordance with the client's designated investment objective(s). In such situations, the Separately Managed Account Manager shall have day-to-day responsibility for the active discretionary management of the allocated assets. The Registrant shall continue to render investment advisory services to the client relative to the ongoing monitoring and review of account performance, asset allocation and client investment objectives. Factors which the Registrant shall consider in recommending Separately Managed Account programs include the client's designated investment objective(s) as applied to the Separately Managed Account program: management style, performance, reputation, financial strength, reporting, pricing, and research.

ByAllAccounts. In conjunction with the services provided by ByAllAccounts, Inc., the Registrant may also provide periodic comprehensive reporting services, which can incorporate all of the client's investment assets including those investment assets that are not part of the assets managed by the Registrant (the "Excluded Assets"). The Registrant's service relative to the Excluded Assets is limited to reporting services only, which does not include investment implementation. Because the Registrant does not have trading authority for the Excluded Assets, to the extent applicable to the nature of the Excluded Assets (assets over which the client maintains trading authority vs. trading authority designated to another investment professional), the client (and/or the other investment professional), and not the Registrant, shall be exclusively responsible for directly implementing any recommendations relative to the Excluded Assets.

Furthermore, the client and/or their other advisors that maintain trading authority, and not the Registrant, shall be exclusively responsible for the investment performance of the Excluded Assets. Without limiting the above, the Registrant shall not be responsible for any implementation error (timing, trading, etc.) relative to the Excluded Assets. In the event the client desires that the Registrant provide investment management services (whereby the Registrant would have trading authority) with respect to the Excluded Assets, the client may engage the Registrant to do so pursuant to the terms and conditions of the *Investment Advisory Agreement* between the Registrant and the client.

Cash Positions. Registrant continues to treat cash as an asset class. As such, unless determined to the contrary by Registrant, all cash positions (money markets, etc.) shall continue to be included as part of assets under management for purposes of calculating Registrant's advisory fee. At any specific point in time, depending upon perceived or anticipated market conditions/events (there being no guarantee that such anticipated market conditions/events will occur), Registrant may maintain cash positions for defensive purposes. In addition, while assets are maintained in cash, such amounts could miss market advances. Depending upon current yields, at any point in time, Registrant's advisory fee could exceed the interest paid by the client's money market fund.

Client Obligations. In performing its services, Registrant shall not be required to verify any information received from the client or from the client's other professionals, and is expressly authorized to rely thereon. Moreover, each client is advised that it remains their responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant if there is ever any change in their financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing, evaluating or revising Registrant's previous recommendations and/or services.

Disclosure Statement. A copy of the Registrant's written Brochure and Client Relationship Summary, as set forth on Part 2A of Form ADV and Form CRS respectively, shall be provided to each client prior to, or contemporaneously with, the execution of the *Investment Advisory Agreement*, *Financial Planning Agreement* or the *Investment Consulting Agreement*.

The National Association of Personal Financial Advisors. Registrant receives referrals from The National Association of Personal Financial Advisors ("NAPFA"). While Registrant pays fees to NAPFA, such fees are not directly related to the number of clients referred to Registrant.

WomenCertified Inc. The Registrant is a recipient of the 2021 Women's Choice Award®. The Women's Choice Award® Financial Advisor program was created by WomenCertified Inc., the Voice of Women, in an effort to help women make smart financial choices. The Women's Choice Award Financial Program is based on 17 objective criteria associated with providing quality service to women clients, such as educational and professional credentials, experience, and a favorable regulatory history, among other factors, including letters of validation and background check. Financial advisors do not pay a fee to qualify for the program. All qualified advisors are listed on womenschoiceaward.com. Once qualified, financial advisors may purchase additional marketing collateral such as seal usage, enhanced listing or promotional products. The inclusion of a financial advisor within the WCA Financial Advisor network should not be construed as an endorsement of the financial advisor by WomenCertified Inc. or its partners and affiliates and is no guarantee of quality of services provided to clients or future investment success.

Women's Choice Award® Financial Advisors and Firms represent less than 1% of financial advisors in the U.S. As of December 31, 2021, of the 603 considered for the Women's Choice Award, 221 were named Women's Choice Award Financial Advisors/Firms.

The Registrant receives referrals and recommendations from WomenCertified Inc. as a result of receiving this award.

Fee-Only Network Registrant receives referrals from Fee-Only Network.com in collaboration with National Association of Personal Financial Advisors ("NAPFA"). While Registrant pays fees to Fee-Only Network.com, such fees are not directly related to the number of clients referred to Registrant. Investors use this free service to find local advisors, learn more about financial advisors and to view documentation for advisors' credentials and business practices.

DFA Advisor Listing The Registrant's representatives are approved to provide Dimensional Funds Advisors ("DFA") and therefore eligible to be included on the DFA Advisor Listing. The Registrant does not pay a fee for their DFA Advisor Listing membership, but registered representatives have completed specialized investment education to offer DFA funds. The DFA Advisor Listing allows the public to access local advisors that have completed the requirements of DFA and can offer their mutual funds to interested investors.

FMG Suite

FMG Suite is an automated marketing content platform and lead generation system that allows advisors to create an engaging digital experience for their clients and prospects; from newsletters, email, website, and social media. Proprietary technology captures potential lead data every time an advisors' content is shared and opened. The Registrant pays a monthly service fee to participate with this platform.

Wealthramp

Wealthramp is a personalized and unbiased online financial referral service, connecting investors with vetted fiduciary advisors who best match an individual's investing priorities. Wealthramp is a registered investment advisor and as such, they are set up to receive fees from the advisors in their network. The advisor shares a portion of the fee they have received from investors. Advisors agree not to increase their fees to compensate Wealthramp. Advisors in our network do not pay Wealthramp for making an introduction, they only pay Wealthramp after the prospective client decides to hire them. Investors only pay the advisor once they have agreed to work with him or her. Investors will pay your advisor directly, based on their agreement and the advisor will pay twenty-five percent to Wealthramp.

Finplicity Network

One or more of Registrant's representatives are approved members of the Finplicity Network on [KentOnMoney.com](https://www.kentonmoney.com). The Registrant does not pay a fee for their membership. Finplicity Network allows [KentOnMoney.com](https://www.kentonmoney.com) users to access personal finance information and local advisors vetted by Finplicity and Dr. Kent Smetters.

SmartAsset

SmartAsset offers free web-based information and personalized tools which also help investors find local prescreened financial advisors via SmartAsset Advisors, LLC ("SA"). SA, a wholly owned subsidiary of Financial Insight Technology, is a registered investment advisor under the Securities and Exchange Commission. SA does not manage client funds or hold custody of assets. The Registrant is an unaffiliated firm that receives referrals from SmartAsset Advisors, LLC in exchange for a flat fee per referral.

ABP Active Trader. In addition to the investment management services provided above, the Registrant may also provide administrative and reporting services for certain clients who have established a separate account at Schwab (the "ABP Account"). Unlike the accounts that the Registrant may manage for the client, in the ABP Account, the client will retain exclusive responsibility for all trading activity and account performance. The Registrant shall not provide any investment implementation, monitoring, review or advisory services with respect to the ABP Account. The terms and conditions for the Registrant's ABP services are set forth in a separate written agreement between the Registrant and the client.

In the event that the ABP Account suffer losses (regardless of amount) or encounters any other problems which are not the direct result of the Registrant's failure to provide its administrative services, the client acknowledges and agrees that the Registrant shall bear no corresponding financial responsibility.

- C. The Registrant shall provide investment advisory services specific to the needs of each client. Prior to providing investment advisory services, an investment adviser representative will ascertain each client's investment objective(s). Thereafter, the Registrant shall allocate and/or recommend that the client allocate investment assets consistent with the designated investment objective(s). The client may, at any time, impose reasonable restrictions, in writing, on the Registrant's services.
- D. The Registrant does not participate in a wrap fee program.
- E. As of December 31, 2021, the Registrant had \$1,112,678,451 in assets under management on a discretionary basis and \$523,168,908 in assets under management on a non-discretionary basis.

Item 5 Fees and Compensation

A.

INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES

The Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall be based upon a percentage (%) of the market value and type of assets placed under the Registrant's management (between 0.75% and 1.00%) as follows:

| <u>Assets Under Management</u> | <u>% of Assets</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Initial \$2,000,000 | 1.00% |
| \$2,000,001 and above | 0.75% |
| Separate Account Managers | 0.80% |

The Registrant's investment advisory fee is negotiable at Registrant's discretion, depending upon objective and subjective factors including but not limited to: the amount of assets to be managed; portfolio composition; the scope and complexity of the engagement; the anticipated number of meetings and servicing needs; related accounts; future earning capacity; anticipated future additional assets; the professional(s) rendering the service(s); prior relationships with the Registrant and/or its representatives, and negotiations with the client. Certain legacy clients may have accepted different pre-existing service offerings from Registrant and may therefore receive services under different fee schedules than as set forth above. As a result of these factors, similarly situated clients could pay different fees, the services to be provided by the Registrant to any particular client could be available from other advisers at lower fees, and certain clients may have fees different than those specifically set forth above.

The investment management fee charged by separate account managers/programs is separate from, and in addition to, Registrant's advisory fee as set forth in the fee schedule above.

PENSION CONSULTING

Registrant acts as a pension consultant for various pension plans. Prior to engaging the Registrant, the client will generally be required to enter into an *Investment Consulting Agreement* with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions of the engagement, describing the scope of the services to be provided, the fee arrangement, and the portion of the fee that is due from the client prior to Registrant commencing services. The Registrant's fee will be based on a percentage (%) of the assets within the plan, and will generally be in accordance with the following schedule:

| <u>Plan Assets</u> | <u>Consulting Fee</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Initial \$2,000,000 | 1.00% |
| \$2,000,001 and above | 0.75% |
| Separate Account Managers | 0.80% |

FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES (STAND-ALONE)

The Registrant may provide financial planning and/or consulting services (including investment and non-investment related matters, including estate planning, insurance planning, etc.) on a stand-alone fee basis. Registrant's planning and consulting fees are negotiable, but generally range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 on a fixed fee basis, and from \$150 to \$200 on an hourly rate basis, depending upon the level and scope of the service(s) required and the professional(s) rendering the service(s).

MEYER AUTOMATED PORTFOLIO STRATEGY (MAPS)

Should a client choose to engage the Registrant to provide discretionary investment advisory services on a fee-only basis through MAPS, the Registrant's annual fee shall be 0.60% of the market value of the assets placed under the Registrant's management.

For purposes of determining value, securities and other instruments traded on a market for which actual transaction prices are publicly reported are valued at the last reported sale price on the principal market in which they are traded. In certain circumstances, fees may be negotiable.

Compensation to Schwab Under MAPS

Clients do not pay fees to SPT or brokerage commissions or other fees to CS&Co. as part of MAPS. Schwab does receive other revenues, including (i) the profit earned by Charles Schwab Bank, a Schwab affiliate, on the allocation to the Schwab Intelligent Portfolios Sweep Program described in the Schwab Intelligent Portfolios Sweep Program Disclosure Statement; (ii) investment advisory and/or administrative service fees (or unitary fees) received by Charles Schwab Investment Management, Inc., a Schwab affiliate, from Schwab ETFs™ Schwab Funds® and Laudus Funds® that the Registrant selects to buy and hold in the client's brokerage account; (iii) fees received by Schwab from third-party ETFs that participate in the Schwab ETF OneSource™ program and mutual funds in the Schwab Mutual Fund Marketplace® (including certain Schwab Funds and Laudus Funds) in the client's brokerage account for services Schwab provides; and (iv) remuneration Schwab may receive from the market centers where it routes ETF trade orders for execution.

- B. Clients may elect to have the Registrant's advisory fees deducted from their custodial account. Both Registrant's *Investment Advisory Agreement* and the custodial/clearing agreement may authorize the custodian to debit the account for the amount of the Registrant's investment advisory fee and to directly remit that management fee to the Registrant in compliance with regulatory procedures.

In the limited event that the Registrant bills the client directly, payment is due upon receipt of the Registrant's invoice.

- C. As discussed below, unless the client directs otherwise or an individual client's circumstances require, the Registrant shall generally recommend that Charles Schwab and Co., Inc. ("*Schwab*") serve as the broker-dealer/custodian for client investment management assets.

Broker-dealers such as *Schwab* charge brokerage commissions and/or transaction fees for effecting certain securities transactions. In addition to Registrant's investment management fee, brokerage commissions and/or transaction fees, clients will also incur, relative to all mutual fund and exchange traded fund purchases, charges imposed at the fund level (e.g. management fees and other fund expenses).

- D. Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall be prorated and paid quarterly, in advance, based upon the market value of the assets on the last business day of the previous quarter, including any accrued interest.

The Registrant, in its sole discretion, may reduce its investment management fee requirement based upon certain criteria (i.e. anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, negotiations with client, etc.).

The *Investment Advisory Agreement* between the Registrant and the client will continue in effect until terminated by either party by written notice in accordance with the terms of the *Investment Advisory Agreement*. Upon termination, the Registrant shall, to the extent appropriate, refund the pro-rated portion of any advanced advisory fee paid based upon the number of days remaining in the billing quarter.

- E. Neither the Registrant, nor its representatives accept compensation from the sale of securities or other investment products.

Item 6 Performance-Based Fees and Side-by-Side Management

Neither the Registrant nor any supervised person of the Registrant accepts performance-based fees.

Item 7 Types of Clients

The Registrant's clients shall generally include individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, business entities, trusts and charitable organizations.

Item 8 Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

- A. The Registrant may utilize the following methods of security analysis:
- Charting - (analysis performed using patterns to identify current trends and trend reversals to forecast the direction of prices)
 - Fundamental - (analysis performed on historical and present data, with the goal of making financial forecasts)
 - Technical – (analysis performed on historical and present data, focusing on price and trade volume, to forecast the direction of prices)

The Registrant may utilize the following investment strategies when implementing investment advice given to clients:

- Long Term Purchases (securities held at least a year)
- Short Term Purchases (securities sold within a year)
- Trading (securities sold within thirty (30) days)
- Margin Transactions (use of borrowed assets to purchase financial instruments)
- Options (contract for the purchase or sale of a security at a predetermined price during a specific period of time)

Investment Risk. Different types of investments involve varying degrees of risk, and it should not be assumed that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy (including the investments and/or investment strategies recommended or undertaken by the Registrant) will be profitable or equal any specific performance level(s).

Investors generally face the following types of investment risks:

- Interest-rate Risk: Fluctuations in interest rates may cause investment prices to fluctuate. For example, when interest rates rise, yields on existing bonds become less attractive, causing their market values to decline.
- Market Risk: The price of a security, bond, or mutual fund may drop in reaction to tangible and intangible events and conditions. This type of risk may be caused by external factors independent of the fund's specific investments as well as due to the fund's specific investments. Additionally, each security's price will fluctuate based

on market movement and emotion, which may, or may not be due to the security's operations or changes in its true value. For example, political, economic and social conditions may trigger market events which are temporarily negative, or temporarily positive.

- Inflation Risk: When any type of inflation is present, a dollar today will not buy as much as a dollar next year, because purchasing power is eroding at the rate of inflation.
- Reinvestment Risk: This is the risk that future proceeds from investments may have to be reinvested at a potentially lower rate of return (i.e. interest rate). This primarily relates to fixed income securities.
- Liquidity Risk: Liquidity is the ability to readily convert an investment into cash. Generally, assets are more liquid if many traders are interested in a standardized product. For example, Treasury Bills are highly liquid, while real estate properties are not.
- Financial Risk: Excessive borrowing to finance a business' operations increases the risk of profitability, because the company must meet the terms of its obligations in good times and bad. During periods of financial stress, the inability to meet loan obligations may result in bankruptcy and/or a declining market value.

B. The Registrant's methods of analysis and investment strategies do not present any significant or unusual risks.

However, every method of analysis has its own inherent risks. To perform an accurate market analysis, the Registrant must have access to current/new market information. The Registrant has no control over the dissemination rate of market information; therefore, unbeknownst to the Registrant, certain analyses may be compiled with outdated market information, severely limiting the value of the Registrant's analysis. Furthermore, an accurate market analysis can only produce a forecast of the direction of market values. There can be no assurances that a forecasted change in market value will materialize into actionable and/or profitable investment opportunities.

The Registrant's primary investment strategies (Long Term Purchases, Short Term Purchases, and Trading) are fundamental investment strategies. However, every investment strategy has its own inherent risks and limitations. For example, longer term investment strategies require a longer investment time period to allow for the strategy to potentially develop. Shorter term investment strategies require a shorter investment time period to potentially develop but, as a result of more frequent trading, may incur higher transactional costs when compared to a longer term investment strategy. Trading, an investment strategy that requires the purchase and sale of securities within a thirty (30) day investment time period, involves a very short investment time period but will incur higher transaction costs when compared to a short term investment strategy and substantially higher transaction costs than a longer term investment strategy.

In addition to the fundamental investment strategies discussed above, the Registrant may also implement and/or recommend the use of margin, derivatives, and/or options. The use of margin, derivatives, and/or options as part of an investment strategy presents a high level of inherent risk. (See discussion below).

- C. Currently, Registrant primarily allocates investment management assets of its client accounts among individual debt and equity securities, various mutual fund classes and exchange traded funds (ETFs), on a discretionary and non-discretionary basis, in accordance with the client's designated investment objective(s).

The Registrant may also allocate investment management assets of its client accounts, on a discretionary basis, among one or more of its asset allocation programs (i.e. Model 7, Model 8 and/or models created by the Registrant through the Schwab Intelligent Portfolios) as designated on the Investment Advisory Agreement. Registrant's asset allocation strategies have been designed to comply with the requirements of Rule 3a-4 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Rule 3a-4 provides similarly managed investment programs, such as Registrant's asset allocation programs, with a non-exclusive safe harbor from the definition of an investment company. In accordance with Rule 3a-4, the following disclosure is applicable to Registrant's management of client assets:

1. Initial Interview – at the opening of the account, the Registrant, through its designated representatives, shall obtain from the client information sufficient to determine the client's financial situation and investment objectives;
2. Individual Treatment - the account is managed on the basis of the client's financial situation and investment objectives;
3. Quarterly Notice – at least quarterly the Registrant shall notify the client to advise the Registrant whether the client's financial situation or investment objectives have changed, or if the client wants to impose and/or modify any reasonable restrictions on the management of the account;
4. Annual Contact – at least annually, the Registrant shall contact the client to determine whether the client's financial situation or investment objectives have changed, or if the client wants to impose and/or modify any reasonable restrictions on the management of the account;
5. Consultation Available – the Registrant shall be reasonably available to consult with the client relative to the status of the account;
6. Quarterly Report – the client shall be provided with a quarterly report for the account for the preceding period;
7. Ability to Impose Restrictions – the client shall have the ability to impose reasonable restrictions on the management of the account, including the ability to instruct the Registrant not to purchase certain securities;
8. No Pooling – the client's beneficial interest in a security does not represent an undivided interest in all the securities held by the custodian, but rather represents a direct and beneficial interest in the securities which comprise the account;
9. Separate Account - a separate account is maintained for the client with the Custodian;
10. Ownership – each client retains indicia of ownership of the account (e.g. right to withdraw securities or cash, exercise or delegate proxy voting, and receive transaction confirmations).

The Registrant believes that its annual investment management fee is reasonable in relation to: (1) the advisory services provided under the *Investment Advisory Agreement*; and (2) the fees charged by other investment advisers offering similar services/programs. However, Registrant's annual investment advisory fee may be higher than that charged by other investment advisers offering similar services/programs. In addition to Registrant's annual investment management fee, the client will also incur charges

imposed directly at the mutual and exchange traded fund level (e.g., management fees and other fund expenses).

Registrant's investment programs may involve above-average portfolio turnover which could negatively impact upon the net after-tax gain experienced by an individual client in a taxable account.

Margin. Margin is an investment strategy with a high level of inherent risk. A margin transaction occurs when an investor uses borrowed assets to purchase financial instruments. The investor generally obtains the borrowed assets by using other securities as collateral for the borrowed sum. The effect of purchasing a security using margin is to magnify any gains or losses sustained by the purchase of the financial instruments on margin.

To the extent that a client authorizes the use of margin, and margin is thereafter employed by the Registrant in the management of the client's investment portfolio, the market value of the client's account and corresponding fee payable by the client to the Registrant can be increased. As a result, in addition to understanding and assuming the additional principal risks associated with the use of margin, clients authorizing margin are advised of the conflict of interest whereby the client's decision to employ margin *can* correspondingly increase the management fee payable to the Registrant. Accordingly, the decision as to whether to employ margin is left totally to the discretion of client.

Borrowing Against Assets/Risks. A client who has a need to borrow money could determine to do so by using:

- **Margin-**The account custodian or broker-dealer lends money to the client. The custodian charges the client interest for the right to borrow money, and uses the assets in the client's brokerage account as collateral; and,
- **Pledged Assets Loan-** In consideration for a lender (i.e., a bank, etc.) to make a loan to the client, the client pledges its investment assets held at the account custodian as collateral;

These above-described collateralized loans are generally utilized because they typically provide more favorable interest rates than standard commercial loans. These types of collateralized loans can assist with a pending home purchase, permit the retirement of more expensive debt, or enable borrowing in lieu of liquidating existing account positions and incurring capital gains taxes. However, such loans are not without potential material risk to the client's investment assets. The lender (i.e. custodian, bank, etc.) will have recourse against the client's investment assets in the event of loan default or if the assets fall below a certain level. For this reason, Registrant does not recommend such borrowing unless it is for specific short-term purposes (i.e. a bridge loan to purchase a new residence). Registrant does not recommend such borrowing for investment purposes (i.e. to invest borrowed funds in the market). Regardless, if the client was to determine to utilize margin or a pledged assets loan, the following economic benefits would inure to Registrant:

- by taking the loan rather than liquidating assets in the client's account, Registrant continues to earn a fee on such Account assets; and,

- if the client invests any portion of the loan proceeds in an account to be managed by Registrant, Registrant will receive an advisory fee on the invested amount; and,
- if Registrant's advisory fee is based upon the higher margined account value, Registrant will earn a correspondingly higher advisory fee. This could provide Registrant with a disincentive to encourage the client to discontinue the use of margin.

The Client must accept the above risks and potential corresponding consequences associated with the use of margin or a pledged assets loans.

Options. The use of options transactions as an investment strategy involves a high level of inherent risk. Option transactions establish a contract between two parties concerning the buying or selling of an asset at a predetermined price during a specific period of time. During the term of the option contract, the buyer of the option gains the right to demand fulfillment by the seller. Fulfillment may take the form of either selling or purchasing a security depending upon the nature of the option contract. Generally, the purchase or the recommendation to purchase an option contract by Registrant shall be with the intent of offsetting/ "hedging" a potential market risk in a client's portfolio.

Although the intent of the options-related transactions that may be implemented by Registrant is to hedge against principal risk, certain of the options-related strategies (i.e. straddles, short positions, etc.), may, in and of themselves, produce principal volatility and/or risk. Thus, a client must be willing to accept these enhanced volatility and principal risks associated with such strategies. In light of these enhanced risks, client may direct Registrant, in writing, not to employ any or all such strategies for their accounts.

For detailed information on the use of options and option strategies, please refer to the Option Clearing Corp.'s Option Disclosure Document, which can be found at: <http://www.optionsclearing.com/components/docs/riskstoc.pdf>

Hard copies may be ordered by calling 1-888-678-4667 or writing OCC, 1 North Wacker Drive, Suite 500 Chicago, IL 60606.

Covered Call Writing. Covered call writing is the sale of in-, at-, or out-of- the money call option against a long security position held in a client portfolio. This type of transaction is intended to generate income. It also serves to create downside protection in the event the security position declines in value. Income is received from the proceeds of the option sale. Such income may be reduced to the extent it is necessary to buy back the option position before its expiration. This strategy may involve a degree of trading velocity, transaction costs and significant losses if the underlying security has volatile price movement. Covered call strategies are generally suited for positions with little price volatility.

Risks Specific to MAPS. ETFs in which the strategy may invest involve certain inherent risks generally associated with investments in a portfolio of securities, including the risk that the general level of security prices may decline, thereby adversely affecting the value of each unit of the ETF. Moreover, an ETF may not fully replicate the performance of its benchmark index because of the temporary unavailability of certain index securities in the secondary market or discrepancies between the ETF and the index with respect to the weighting of securities or the number of securities held.

ETFs in which the strategies invest have their own fees and expenses as set forth in the ETF prospectuses. ETFs may have exposure to derivative instruments, such as futures contracts, forward contracts, options, and swaps. There is a risk that a derivative may not perform as expected. The main risk with derivatives is that some types can amplify a gain or loss, potentially earning or losing substantially more money than the actual cost of the derivative, or that the counterparty may fail to honor its contract terms, causing a loss for the ETF.

Use of these instruments may also involve certain costs and risks such as liquidity risk, interest rate risk, market risk, credit risk, management risk, and the risk that an ETF could not close out a position when it would be most advantageous to do so. Some ETFs available, including Schwab ETFs™, are less than 10 years old. Accordingly, there is limited data available to use when assessing the investment risk of some of these ETFs. As a result, one or more of the following may occur: (i) poor liquidity in or limited availability of the ETFs, or (ii) lack of market depth causing the ETFs to trade at excessive premiums or discounts.

Investment Strategy Risks. There are risks associated with the long-term core strategic holdings for each of the investment strategies. The more aggressive the investment strategy selected, the more likely the portfolio will contain larger weights in riskier asset classes, such as equities.

Item 9 Disciplinary Information

The Registrant has not been the subject of any disciplinary actions.

Item 10 Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

- A. Neither the Registrant, nor its representatives, are registered or have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.
- B. Neither the Registrant, nor its representatives, are registered or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading advisor, or a representative of the foregoing.
- C. The Registrant has no other relationship or arrangement with a related person that is material to its advisory business.
- D. The Registrant does not receive, directly or indirectly, compensation from investment advisors that it recommends or selects for its clients.

Item 11 Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading

- A. The Registrant maintains an investment policy relative to personal securities transactions. This investment policy is part of Registrant's overall Code of Ethics, which serves to establish a standard of business conduct for all of Registrant's representatives that is based upon fundamental principles of openness, integrity, honesty and trust, a copy of

which is available upon request.

In accordance with Section 204A of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Registrant also maintains and enforces written policies reasonably designed to prevent the misuse of material non-public information by the Registrant or any person associated with the Registrant.

- B. Neither the Registrant nor any related person of Registrant recommends, buys, or sells for client accounts, securities in which the Registrant or any related person of Registrant has a material financial interest.
- C. The Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant *may* buy or sell securities that are also recommended to clients. This practice may create a situation where the Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant are in a position to materially benefit from the sale or purchase of those securities. Therefore, this situation creates a conflict of interest. Practices such as “scalping” (i.e., a practice whereby the owner of shares of a security recommends that security for investment and then immediately sells it at a profit upon the rise in the market price which follows the recommendation) could take place if the Registrant did not have adequate policies in place to detect such activities. In addition, this requirement can help detect insider trading, “front-running” (i.e., personal trades executed prior to those of the Registrant’s clients) and other potentially abusive practices.

The Registrant has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transactions and securities holdings of each of the Registrant’s “Access Persons”. The Registrant’s securities transaction policy requires that an Access Person of the Registrant must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of the current securities holdings within ten (10) days after becoming an Access Person. Additionally, each Access Person must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of the Access Person’s current securities holdings at least once each twelve (12) month period thereafter on a date the Registrant selects; provided, however that at any time that the Registrant has only one Access Person, he or she shall not be required to submit any securities report described above.

- D. The Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant *may* buy or sell securities, at or around the same time as those securities are recommended to clients. This practice creates a situation where the Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant are in a position to materially benefit from the sale or purchase of those securities. Therefore, this situation creates a conflict of interest. As indicated above in Item 11 C, the Registrant has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transaction and securities holdings of each of Registrant’s Access Persons.

Item 12 Brokerage Practices

- A. In the event that the client requests that the Registrant recommend a broker-dealer/custodian for execution and/or custodial services (exclusive of those clients that may direct the Registrant to use a specific broker-dealer/custodian), Registrant generally recommends that investment management accounts be maintained at *Schwab*. Prior to engaging Registrant to provide investment management services, the client will be required to enter into a formal *Investment Advisory Agreement* with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions under which Registrant shall manage the client's assets,

and a separate custodial/clearing agreement with each designated broker-dealer/custodian.

Factors that the Registrant considers in recommending *Schwab* (another broker-dealer/custodian, investment platform and/or mutual fund sponsor) include historical relationship with the Registrant, financial strength, reputation, execution capabilities, pricing, research, and service. Although the commissions and/or transaction fees paid by Registrant's clients shall comply with the Registrant's duty to seek best execution, a client can pay a commission that is higher than another qualified broker-dealer might charge to effect the same transaction where the Registrant determines, in good faith, that the commission/transaction fee is reasonable. In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer's services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Accordingly, although Registrant will seek competitive rates, it may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for client account transactions. The brokerage commissions or transaction fees charged by the designated broker-dealer/custodian are exclusive of, and in addition to, Registrant's investment management fee. The Registrant's best execution responsibility is qualified if securities that it purchases for client accounts are mutual funds that trade at net asset value as determined at the daily market close.

1. Research and Additional Benefits

Although not a material consideration when determining whether to recommend that a client utilize the services of a particular broker-dealer/custodian, Registrant receives from *Schwab* (another broker-dealer/custodian, investment platform, unaffiliated investment manager, vendor, unaffiliated product/fund sponsor, or vendor) without cost (and/or at a discount) support services and/or products, certain of which assist the Registrant to better monitor and service client accounts maintained at such institutions. Included within the support services that may be obtained by the Registrant may be investment-related research, pricing information and market data, discounted and/or gratis software and other technology that provide access to client account data, compliance and/or practice management-related publications, discounted or gratis consulting services, discounted and/or gratis attendance at conferences, meetings, and other educational and/or social events, marketing support, computer hardware and/or software and/or other products used by Registrant in furtherance of its investment advisory business operations.

As indicated above, certain of the support services and/or products received may assist the Registrant in managing and administering client accounts. Others do not directly provide such assistance, but rather assist the Registrant to manage and further develop its business enterprise.

Products and Services Available to Registrant from Schwab

Schwab provides the Registrant and its client with access to its institutional brokerage – trading, custody, reporting and related services – many of which are not typically available to *Schwab* retail customers. *Schwab* also makes available various support services. Some of those services help us manage or administer our clients' accounts while others help us manage and grow our business. *Schwab's* support services generally are available on an unsolicited basis (we don't have to request them) and at no charge to us as long as we keep a total of at least \$10 million of our clients' assets

in accounts at *Schwab*. If we have less than \$10 million in client assets at *Schwab*, it may charge us quarterly service fees. Here is a more detailed description of Schwab's support services:

Services that May Not Directly Benefit our Clients. *Schwab* also makes available to us other products and services that benefit us but may not directly benefit our clients or their account(s). These products and services assist us in managing and administering our clients' accounts. They include investment research, both *Schwab*'s own and that of third parties. We may use this research to service all or some substantial number of our clients' accounts, including accounts not maintained at *Schwab*. In addition to investment research, *Schwab* also makes available software and other technology that:

- provide access to client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements);
- facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts;
- provide pricing and other market data;
- facilitate payment of our fees from our clients' accounts; and
- assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping and client reporting.

Services that Generally Benefit Only Us. *Schwab* also offers other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services include:

- educational conferences and events
- technology, compliance, legal, and business consulting;
- publications and conferences on practice management and business succession; and
- access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants and insurance providers.

In addition to the above, *Schwab* has agreed to reimburse Registrant for expenses associated with Registrant's technological support services when possible.

Schwab may provide some of these services itself. In other cases, it will arrange for third-party vendors to provide the services to us. *Schwab* may also discount or waive its fees for some of these services or pay all or a part of a third party's fees. *Schwab* may also provide us with other benefits such as occasional business entertainment of our personnel.

The availability of services from Schwab benefits Registrant because Registrant does not have to produce or purchase them. Registrant doesn't have to pay for these services, and they are not contingent upon us committing any specific amount of business to Schwab in trading commissions or assets in custody. There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to *Schwab* or any other entity to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific mutual funds, securities or other investment products as a result of the above arrangement.

Accordingly, the recommendation by Registrant or its representatives that a client select Schwab as designated broker-dealer/custodian for their accounts or transfer their account assets from another broker-dealer/custodian to Schwab presents a

conflict of interest, because Registrant had and may continue to have the incentive to make such a recommendation based on its interest in receiving the Additional Benefits to benefit its business interests, rather than based on clients' interest in receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of transactions.

To mitigate this conflict of interest, Registrant will only recommend that a client select Schwab as broker-dealer/custodian if it reasonably believes that the arrangement is in the best interests of its clients based upon the factors discussed throughout this Item 12. **Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Thomas C. Meyer, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding this conflict of interest.**

Brokerage Practices Under MAPS

Client accounts enrolled in MAPS are maintained at, and receive the brokerage services of, Schwab, a broker-dealer registered with the SEC and a FINRA/SIPC member. While clients are required to use CS&Co. as custodian/broker to enroll in MAPS, the client decides whether to do so and opens its account with Schwab by entering into a brokerage account agreement directly with Schwab. The Registrant does not open the account for the client. If the client does not wish to place his or her assets with CS&Co., then Registrant cannot manage the client's account through MAPS. Schwab may aggregate purchase and sale orders for ETFs across accounts enrolled in MAPS, including both accounts for Registrant's clients and accounts for clients of other independent investment advisory firms using the Platform.

Schwab Advisor Services™ (formerly called Schwab Institutional) is Schwab's business serving independent investment advisory firms like Registrant. Through Schwab Advisor Services, Schwab provides the Registrant and its clients, both those enrolled in MAPS and clients not enrolled in MAPS, with access to its institutional brokerage services— trading, custody, reporting, and related services—many of which are not typically available to Schwab retail customers. Schwab also makes available various support services. Some of those services help Registrant manage or administer its clients' accounts, while others help it manage and grow its business. Schwab's support services described below are generally available on an unsolicited basis (Registrant does not have to request them) and at no charge to Registrant. The availability of Schwab's products and services to Registrant is not based on Registrant giving particular investment advice, such as buying particular securities for its clients. Here is a more detailed description of Schwab's support services:

Schwab's institutional brokerage services include access to a broad range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of client assets. The investment products available through Schwab include some to which Registrant might not otherwise have access or that would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment by Registrant's clients. Schwab's services described in this paragraph generally benefit the client and the client's account.

Schwab also makes available to Registrant other products and services that benefit Registrant but may not directly benefit the client or its account. These products and services assist Registrant in managing and administering Registrant's clients' accounts. They include investment research, both Schwab's own and that of third parties. Registrant may use this research to service all or some substantial number of

Registrant's clients' accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab in addition to investment research, Schwab also makes available software and other technology that:

- provide access to client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements);
- facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts;
- provide pricing and other market data;
- facilitate payment of Registrant's fees from Registrant's clients' accounts; and
- assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and client reporting.

Schwab also offers other services intended to help Registrant manage and further develop Registrant's business enterprise. These services include:

- educational conferences and events;
- technology, compliance, legal, and business consulting;
- publications and conferences on practice management and business succession; and
- access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants, and insurance providers.

Schwab may provide some of these services itself. In other cases, it will arrange for third-party vendors to provide the services to Registrant. Schwab may also discount or waive its fees for some of these services or pay all or a part of a third party's fees. Schwab may also provide us with other benefits such as occasional business entertainment of Registrant's personnel.

The availability of services from Schwab benefits Registrant because Registrant does not have to produce or purchase them. Registrant does not have to pay for these services, and they are not contingent upon Registrant committing any specific amount of business to CS&Co. in trading commissions or assets in custody. With respect to MAPS, as described above under Item 4, Registrant does not pay SPT fees for the Platform so long as it maintain \$100 Million in client assets in accounts at Schwab that are not enrolled in MAPS. In light of Registrant's arrangements with Schwab, Registrant may have an incentive to recommend that clients maintain their accounts with CS&Co. based on its interest in receiving Schwab's services that benefit its business rather than based on the client's interest in receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of transactions. This presents a conflict of interest. When making such a recommendation, however, Registrant believes that its recommendation of Schwab as custodian and broker is in the best interests of its clients. It is primarily supported by the scope, quality, and price of Schwab's services and not Schwab's services that benefit only Registrant.

Additional Benefits

Registrant has received from Schwab, certain additional economic benefits ("Additional Benefits") that may or may not be offered to the Registrant again in the future. Specifically, the Additional Benefits include monetary assistance toward technology, research, marketing or compliance consulting related expenses. The Registrant has no expectation that these Additional Benefits will be offered again; however, the Registrant reserves the right to negotiate for these Additional Benefits in the future. Schwab provides the Additional Benefits to Registrant in its sole

discretion and at its own expense, and neither the Registrant nor its clients pay any fees to Schwab for the Additional Benefits.

The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Thomas C. Meyer, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangements and any corresponding conflicts of interest.

2. Schwab Referrals

Registrant receives client referrals from *Schwab* through Registrant's participation in Schwab Advisor Network™ ("the *Service*"), designed to help investors find an independent investment advisor. Schwab is a broker-dealer independent of and unaffiliated with Registrant. Schwab does not supervise Registrant and has no responsibility for Registrant's management of clients' portfolios or Registrant's other advice or services. Registrant pays Schwab fees to receive client referrals through the *Service*. Registrant's participation in the *Service* may raise conflicts of interest described below.

Registrant pays *Schwab* a Participation Fee on all referred clients' accounts that are maintained in custody at Schwab and a Non-Schwab Custody Fee on all accounts that are maintained at, or transferred to, another custodian. The Participation Fee paid by Registrant is a percentage of the fees owed by the client to Registrant or a percentage of the value of the assets in the client's account, subject to a minimum Participation Fee. Registrant pays *Schwab* the Participation Fee for so long as the referred client's account remains in custody at Schwab. The Participation Fee is billed to Registrant quarterly and may be increased, decreased or waived by *Schwab* from time to time. The Participation Fee is paid by Registrant and not by the client. Registrant has agreed not to charge clients referred through the *Service* fees or costs greater than the fees or costs Registrant charges clients with similar portfolios (pursuant to Registrant's standard fee schedule as in effect from time to time) who were not referred through the *Service*.

Registrant generally pays *Schwab* a Non-Schwab Custody Fee if custody of a referred client's account is not maintained by, or assets in the account are transferred from *Schwab*, unless the client was solely responsible for the decision not to maintain custody at *Schwab*. The Non-Schwab Custody Fee is a one-time payment equal to a percentage of the assets placed in custody other than at Schwab. The Non-Schwab Custody Fee is higher than the Participation Fees Registrant generally would pay in a single year. Thus, Registrant will have an incentive to recommend that client accounts be held in custody at *Schwab*.

The Participation and Non-Schwab Custody Fees will be based on assets in accounts of Registrant's clients who were referred by *Schwab* and those referred clients' family members living in the same household. Thus, Registrant will have incentives to encourage household members of clients referred through the *Service* to maintain custody of their accounts and execute transactions at *Schwab* and to instruct *Schwab* to debit Registrant's fees directly from the accounts.

For accounts of Registrant's clients maintained in custody at *Schwab*, *Schwab* will not charge the client separately for custody but will receive compensation from Registrant's clients in the form of commissions or other transaction-related compensation on securities trades executed through *Schwab*. *Schwab* also will

receive a fee (generally lower than the applicable commission on trades it executes) for clearance and settlement of trades to be executed through *Schwab* rather than another broker-dealer. Registrant nevertheless acknowledges its duty to seek best execution of trades for client accounts. Trades for client accounts held in custody at *Schwab* can be executed through a different broker-dealer than trades for Registrant's other clients. Thus, trades for accounts held in custody at *Schwab* can be executed at different times and different prices than trades for other accounts that are executed at other broker-dealers.

The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Thomas C. Meyer, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement and any corresponding conflict of interest.

3. The Registrant does not generally accept directed brokerage arrangements (when a client requires that account transactions be effected through a specific broker-dealer). In such client directed arrangements, the client will negotiate terms and arrangements for their account with that broker-dealer, and Registrant will not seek better execution services or prices from other broker-dealers or be able to "batch" the client's transactions for execution through other broker-dealers with orders for other accounts managed by Registrant. As a result, client may pay higher commissions or other transaction costs or greater spreads, or receive less favorable net prices, on transactions for the account than would otherwise be the case.

In the event that the client directs Registrant to effect securities transactions for the client's accounts through a specific broker-dealer, the client correspondingly acknowledges that such direction may cause the accounts to incur higher commissions or transaction costs than the accounts would otherwise incur had the client determined to effect account transactions through alternative clearing arrangements that may be available through Registrant. Higher transaction costs adversely impact account performance.

Transactions for directed accounts will generally be executed following the execution of portfolio transactions for non-directed accounts.

The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Thomas C. Meyer, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement.

- B. To the extent that the Registrant provides investment management services to its clients, the transactions for each client account generally will be effected independently, unless the Registrant decides to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. The Registrant may (but is not obligated to) combine or "bunch" such orders to seek best execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates or to allocate equitably among the Registrant's clients differences in prices and commissions or other transaction costs that might have been obtained had such orders been placed independently. Under this procedure, transactions will be averaged as to price and will be allocated among clients in proportion to the purchase and sale orders placed for each client account on any given day. The Registrant shall not receive any additional compensation or remuneration as a result of such aggregation.

Item 13 **Review of Accounts**

- A. For those clients to whom Registrant provides investment supervisory services, account reviews are conducted on an ongoing basis by Thomas C. Meyer and Registrant's representatives. All investment supervisory and financial planning clients are advised that it remains their responsibility to advise the Registrant of any changes in their investment objectives and/or financial situation. All clients (in person or via telephone) are encouraged to review financial planning issues, investment objectives and account performance with the Registrant on an annual basis, as applicable.
- B. The Registrant may conduct account reviews on an other than periodic basis upon the occurrence of a triggering event, such as a change in client investment objectives and/or financial situation, market corrections and client request.
- C. Clients are provided with transaction confirmation notices and regular summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian for the client accounts.

Item 14 **Client Referrals and Other Compensation**

- A. As referenced in Item 12.A.1 above, the Registrant receives an economic benefit from *Schwab*. The Registrant, without cost (and/or at a discount), may receive support services and/or products from *Schwab*.

There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to *Schwab* or any other entity to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific mutual funds, securities or other investment products as a result of the above arrangement.

The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Thomas C. Meyer, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement and any corresponding conflict of interest.

- B. If a client is introduced to the Registrant by either an unaffiliated or an affiliated solicitor, Registrant may pay that solicitor a referral fee in accordance with the requirements of Rule 206(4)-3 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, and any corresponding state securities law requirements. Any such referral fee shall be paid solely from the Registrant's investment management fee, and shall not result in any additional charge to the client. If the client is introduced to the Registrant by an unaffiliated solicitor, the solicitor, at the time of the solicitation, shall disclose the nature of their solicitor relationship, and shall provide each prospective client with a copy of the Registrant's written Brochure with a copy of the written disclosure statement from the solicitor to the client disclosing the terms of the solicitation arrangement between the Registrant and the solicitor, including the compensation to be received by the solicitor from the Registrant.

Item 15 **Custody**

The Registrant shall have the ability to have its advisory fee for each client debited by the custodian on a quarterly basis. Clients are provided with transaction confirmation notices and regular summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian for the client accounts.

To the extent that the Registrant provides clients with periodic account statements or reports, the client is urged to compare any statement or report provided by the Registrant with the account statements received from the account custodian.

The account custodian does not verify the accuracy of the Registrant's advisory fee calculation.

Custody Situations: The Registrant engages in other practices and/or services on behalf of its clients that require disclosure at ADV Part 1, Item 9. Some of such practices and/or services are subject to an annual surprise CPA examination in accordance with the requirements of Rule 206(4)-2 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. In addition, certain clients have established asset transfer authorizations which permit the qualified custodian to rely upon instructions from the Registrant to transfer client funds or securities to third parties. These arrangements are also disclosed at ADV Part 1, Item 9, but in accordance with the guidance provided in the SEC's February 21, 2017 Investment Adviser Association No-Action Letter, the affected accounts are not subject to an annual surprise CPA examination.

The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding custody-related issues.

Item 16 Investment Discretion

The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide investment advisory services on a discretionary basis. Prior to the Registrant assuming discretionary authority over a client's account, the client shall be required to execute an *Investment Advisory Agreement*, naming the Registrant as the client's attorney and agent in fact, granting the Registrant full authority to buy, sell, or otherwise effect investment transactions involving the assets in the client's name found in the discretionary account.

Clients who engage the Registrant on a discretionary basis may, at any time, impose restrictions, in writing, on the Registrant's discretionary authority (i.e. limit the types/amounts of particular securities purchased for their account, exclude the ability to purchase securities with an inverse relationship to the market, limit or proscribe the Registrant's use of margin, etc.).

Item 17 Voting Client Securities

Unless the client directs otherwise in writing, the Registrant is responsible for voting client proxies (However, the client shall maintain exclusive responsibility for all legal proceedings or other type events pertaining to the account assets, including, but not limited to, class action lawsuits.). The Registrant shall vote proxies in accordance with its Proxy Voting Policy, a copy of which is available upon request. The Registrant shall monitor corporate actions of individual issuers and investment companies consistent with the Registrant's fiduciary duty to vote proxies in the best interests of its clients. Although the factors which Registrant will consider when determining how it will vote differ on a case by case basis, they may, but are not limited to, include the following: a review of

recommendations from issuer management, shareholder proposals, cost effects of such proposals, effect on employees and executive and director compensation. With respect to individual issuers, the Registrant may be solicited to vote on matters including corporate governance, adoption or amendments to compensation plans (including stock options), and matters involving social issues and corporate responsibility. With respect to investment companies (e.g., mutual funds), the Registrant may be solicited to vote on matters including the approval of advisory contracts, distribution plans, and mergers. The Registrant shall maintain records pertaining to proxy voting as required pursuant to Rule 204-2 (c)(2) under the Advisers Act. Copies of Rules 206(4)-6 and 204-2(c)(2) are available upon written request. In addition, information pertaining to how the Registrant voted on any specific proxy issue is also available upon written request. Requests should be made by contacting the Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Thomas C. Meyer.

Item 18 Financial Information

- A. The Registrant does not solicit fees of more than \$1,200, per client, six months or more in advance.
- B. The Registrant is unaware of any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet its contractual commitments relating to its discretionary authority over certain client accounts.
- C. The Registrant has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.

The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Thomas C. Meyer, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above disclosures and arrangements.